

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
OFFICE REPORT**

September 26 – November 26, 2001

Management

On September 27th, Bill Douros, Dawn Hayes and Jen Jolly participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil the first interpretive display of the Sanctuary Scenic Trail in Santa Cruz, an interpretive and recreational trail planned by the Santa Cruz community that may one day rim the Monterey Bay. As part of the ceremony, Bill announced the MBNMS's commitment of up to \$100,000 to build interpretive exhibits along the Trail in Santa Cruz. Congressman Sam Farr attended and congratulated the community effort.

Also on September 27th, Bill Douros, Dawn Hayes & Jen Jolly participated in a meeting organized by Congressman Sam Farr's office on extending the Santa Cruz Sanctuary Scenic Trail down to Monterey County. Sanctuary education staff offered to head up the working group on Sanctuary Trail Interpretation.

Outreach efforts continued for the management plan review with Bill speaking to a class at UC Santa Cruz in the evening of October 16th. Many other outreach efforts by various staff will take place over the next few weeks, including local governments and non-profit groups.

Bill and Sean Morton attended the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Committee meeting on Friday, November 2nd, where the upcoming Big Sur scoping meeting on December 5th involving a half dozen other resource management agencies was discussed.

Sean Morton attended the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Plan scoping meeting on Thursday, November 2 in Salinas and spoke about the ongoing regional cooperation between USFS and NMSP regarding our respective management plan updates.

Sean Morton and SAC member Dan Haifley spoke to the Big Stick Surfing Association about the joint management plan review at their monthly meeting in Santa Cruz on Saturday, November 4th.

The recruitment for four Advisory Council primary and alternate seats (Conservation, Tourism, Diving and Education) was announced via press release, web page posting, listservs, postcard mailings, and newspaper ads. The deadline for applications is December 14th.

On November 7th MBNMS Staff and nine SAC Members attended a Joint Management Plan Review All Hands Meeting in Santa Cruz in preparation for the upcoming scoping meetings.

Bill Douros, Dawn Hayes and Karen Grimmer joined several SAC members at the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation function on November 7th to discuss the MBNMS Multicultural Education Plan (MERITO) which targets the local Hispanic Community. The National Foundation is looking at assisting the funding efforts for MERITO.

Karen and Dawn met with staff of the Community Foundation of Monterey County to discuss MERITO and its potential with local foundations.

Sean Morton, with Anne Walton, Brady Phillips and Sarah Marquis met with several National Conservation groups in San Francisco to discuss the JMPR.

Sean and Brad Damitz attended a JMPR media training at GFNMS.

MBNMS staff met with NMSP, CBNMS and GFNMS staff in Santa Cruz on Wednesday, November 7 to discuss the Joint Management Plan Review.

On Monday November 12, Bill, Sean Morton and Brad Damitz spoke to four classes at Cal State Monterey Bay about MBNMS and the management plan review.

On November 14, Karen Grimmer and Chair David Ebert attended the Business and Tourism Activity Panel meeting at the Monterey Conference Center. Some items on the agenda included an update on the MBNMS Management Plan Review and the upcoming scoping meetings, a dredging presentation by MBNMS staff, Deirdre Hall, and a discussion on potential future projects and directions for the BTAP.

Postcards were mailed to about 4,000 constituents announcing the availability of the MBNMS State of the Sanctuary and the Joint Management Plan Review website.

Bill attended the California Biodiversity Council meeting in Modesto on Nov. 15th, where the main focus was on agricultural strategies to protect California's natural resources. The Sanctuary had a poster at the meeting about the Ag. and Rural land plan.

On November 19, 2001, Jen Jolly, Dawn Hayes and Bill Douros met with representatives from the City of Santa Cruz regarding the city's interest in housing a Sanctuary visitor center in existing buildings on the Santa Cruz pier, which presently has 1-2 million visitors a year.

Education and Outreach

Jen Jolly and Carol Teraoka completed final report and success evaluation of the Team Ocean Kayaker Education Program from this past summer. The team put in 328 hours on the water and contacted a total of 1235 kayakers to provide education on Sanctuary regulations and minimizing kayak-related disturbances to marine wildlife.

Jen Jolly gave presentations to two adult volunteer groups in Santa Cruz (Seymour Center & BayNet volunteers) about the JMPR and encouraging participation in the scoping process.

Dawn Hayes has been working with O'Neill Sea Odyssey on a grant from Toyota and met with their Foundation reps on Monday 10/29. The Sanctuary would evaluate and revise O'Neill's boat program curriculum and distribute through workshops, the websites and export to all NMS and NERR sites.

Dawn hosted an "Interpretive Opportunities" meeting for the Monterey portion of the Sanctuary Scenic trail, as requested by Congressman Sam Farr's office. Attendees will include Sam Farr's Office, the National Parks Service, MBNMS, Sanctuary Interagency Task Force members (County, City and State representatives), State Parks.

Elephant Seal season is gearing up. Michele Roest gave a training presentation to new Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES) docents, and attended a law enforcement meeting with Carol Teraoka and other representatives from law enforcement agencies and the Hearst Corporation to discuss harassment issues for the coming season. Michele is also a back-up researcher for the FES census team.

Sanctuary Education Panel met on November 15.. They discussed the Management Plan Review and getting their constituents involved. Educator of the Year award nominees discussed and regional education plan development will continue after scoping comment period closes, to allow for additional input.

Jen Jolly gave a lecture to a UC Santa Cruz Marine Policy class about the MBNMS and Jmpr.

Michele Roest will gave a presentation: "The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: an Ecosystems Approach" to docents from the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History on November 14. She also gave a management plan review presentation.

On November 15, Jen Jolly and Karen Grimmer observed the O'Neill Sea Odyssey on-the-water program for planning future collaborations and opportunities. They were happily treated to warm weather, calm seas, and enthusiastic 5th and 6th graders from Davenport.

Education staff continues to work with Project Oceanography in the development of the February broadcast and with Mystic Aquarium / Institute for Exploration on their MBNMS immersion interactive ROV program.

Research

Andrew DeVogelaere attended an academic/multi-agency, intertidal taxonomy workshop on October 11 and 12 at UC Santa Cruz. Items addressed were recent taxonomic name changes, tricks to identifying species, and developing uniform sampling protocols.

Kelly Newton participated in the NMFS Southwest Fishery Science Center Harbor Porpoise aerial surveys on October 11 - 13. Transect lines were flown from Pt. Sur to Pt. Arena. During those aerial surveys, Kelly spotted a Humpback whale off San Francisco with 50 ft of line and a buoy wrapped around its tail stock. Appropriate notifications were made and the status of the whale is unknown.

The week of October 16, the MBNMS research staff completed field work for two damage assessments for shipwreck groundings, the *SherWind* off Pebble Beach and the *Bono* off Big Sur coast.

Erica Burton and Kelly Newton attended the Sixth Biennial Workshop on Research at the Gulf of the Farallones NMS on Thursday October 25. Kelly gave a 10 minute talk on the MBNMS Beach COMBERS program.

The week of September 22, Mario Tamburri gave a seminar on his work entitled "Experimental Approaches to Environmental Concerns: CO₂ Ocean Sequestration and Aquatic Invasive Species" as an invited speaker to the Department of Environmental Studies at Emory University in Atlanta. He also discussed the potential for deoxygenation of ballast water to prevent invasions with scientists at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

During the last week of September, the SIMoN contract was awarded to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, along with the Davidson Seamount exploration contract to MBARI.

Kelly Newton was in the field on Wednesday September 26th tagging harbor seals with graduate students from Moss Landing Marine Lab. They were only able to capture 1 adult female in Elkhorn Slough.

On November 1st, the first three Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) requests for pre-proposals were released to the public. The SIMoN program will be selecting contractors to: (1) examine impacts of thermal discharge into the Sanctuary from the Duke Power plant in Moss Landing, (2) characterize and monitor the benthic and planktonic communities of Elkhorn Slough, and (3) characterize and model the hydrology and tidal erosion of Elkhorn Slough.

On November 1, Kelly Newton attended the fall meeting of the Monterey Bay area Snowy Plover working group. The 2001 breeding season in was one of the best ever in Monterey Bay for this endangered species. Protecting the old salt-ponds and marshes in Elkhorn Slough remain a priority for restoring this population.

On November 5, MBNMS Research and Resource Protection staff met with 25 staff of the University of California component of the PISCO project. PISCO is a west coast-wide rocky shore and kelp forest monitoring effort that has a focus on providing management and policy information. There will be significant follow-up in developing the MBNMS Management Plan and damage assessment procedures.

On Tuesday November 13 a fall/winter BeachCOMBERS enrichment session was held at Moss Landing Marine Labs. The annual report was presented along with a bird identification slide show. Birds on a stick were available for review. About 20 volunteers attended the enrichment session.

On Thursday & Friday November 8-9, the November Leatherback Turtle/Harbor Porpoise aerial survey took place. Kelly Newton participated as the recorder. Seven species of odontocetes (toothed whales) were sighted, including very large aggregations of Grampus and Delphinus, and a lethargic humpback whale.

Four Sanctuary staff attended the 82nd Annual Western Society of Naturalists Meetings in Ventura, California, November 10-12. A couple of themes were common throughout the

meetings: the importance of studying natural history and long-term monitoring. Research Coordinator Andrew DeVogelaere was nominated as the president-elect to WSN.

On Wednesday & Thursday November 14-15, the last Wind to Whales cruise of the season took place in Monterey Bay. Kelly Newton participated in the cruise. Harbor porpoise & California Sea Lions were the most common sighting. A tagged dead otter was found during one of the transect lines.

In collaboration with researchers from Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Reserve and San Jose State University, Andrew DeVogelaere and Erica Burton monitored 12 sampling stations along the banks of Elkhorn Slough to measure erosion rates. This effort is part of an on going, long-term monitoring project.

The RAP met on November 16, hosted by Moss Landing Marine Labs. A few key agenda items included the addition of a new RAP member from Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station, Fiorenza Micheli; development of a new California-wide Marine Mapping User Group (MMUG); and RAP involvement in the Management Plan scoping process. Deirdre Hall gave a presentation to the RAP on streamlining the permit process for research permits. Researchers have been interested in receiving an institutional permit for some time. The presentation included a summary of the institutional permit that was issued to MBARI last year, a refresher of common permit triggers, and an update on how HQ is planning to move forward with an online permit application.

Resource Protection

Monterey's Urban Watch Team, led by Kelly Newton, sampled the storm drains on October 9 and 10. High levels of detergents were found in the Steinbeck Plaza storm drain.

Deirdre Hall completed a permit compliance check with the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation at Ano Nuevo Island, and observed five(!) great white sharks attracted to the bait within a five hour period. Shark attraction events have occasionally been controversial, but the applicants were found to be operating within the constraints of their permit.

A farmer certification program and regional logo labeled Fields to Ocean Coastal Farmers Protecting Monterey Bay (check it out at <http://www.pvpilot.org/>) has been completed by the Community Alliance of Family Farmers, in collaboration with the Sanctuary and many other partners. Katie Siegler and Holly Price spoke at a October 27th press conference and tour highlighting this effort to build consumer recognition for growers who adopt conservation measures protecting the bay.

The Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network was asked by the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency to provide stormwater data to help them evaluate the possibility of directing some of the contaminated urban runoff from the City of Pacific Grove to the sewage treatment plant. The Network was able to provide coliform contamination data from its First Flush program and winter monitoring, as well as 2 years of summer contaminant levels from the Urban Watch Program--another good use of volunteer data.

“First Flush” monitoring occurred on Tuesday morning, October 30th at 4:00 AM. First Flush is defined as the first major storm of the season and was coordinated by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network. Thirty-nine volunteers mobilized in the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove and Santa Cruz. Water samples were collected at 14 locations and analyzed for total coliform, *E. coli*., orthophosphate, nitrate, total suspended solids, total dissolved solids, oil and grease, zinc, copper and lead.

The Resource Protection Team’s work with the Coastal Commission on developing a regional policy on coastal armoring has led to a proposal submitted by Coastal Commission to NOAA’s Coastal Services Center to develop a predictive GIS-based tool for coastal bluff erosion rates within the Sanctuary.

Holly Price attended a meeting convened by SOS to talk with local public works directors and elected officials staff regarding needs for funding sewage infrastructure projects to reduce coliform contamination and beach closures.

Bridget Hoover gave a poster presentation on the Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network and Snapshot Day at the Nonpoint Source conference in Sacramento.

The Sanctuary and the California Coastal Commission met to hear a presentation by desalination expert Sabine Latteman on potential biological impacts of this technology. She agreed to review biological habitat data within the Sanctuary region to help assess sensitive habitats, and will be drafting the biological impacts chapter of our regional guidance document on desal projects.

Holly Price gave a presentation to the Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup convened by the State Resources Agency and ACOE, addressing the Sanctuary’s role in coastal armoring, landslide disposal and watershed erosion control. Several group participants indicated they were interested in the possibilities of beach nourishment projects in the Sanctuary, and they intend to bring up the issue in the management plan review.

The Storm Damage Response and Repair Working Group (Highway 1 Management Plan team) met to discuss storm damage management strategies and reviewed a possible Caltrans proposal to dispose 5,000 cy of material on the bluff and slope above Pitkins curve which would eventually enter the Sanctuary (from outside) and mimic a natural event.

Special Events

Sunday September 30 was the annual Shark Festival and Sanctuary Celebration in Santa Cruz. It was a beautiful day to celebrate the Sanctuary, and attendance was estimated at several thousand people. Bill Douros, the mayor of Santa Cruz, and Congressman Sam Farr spoke at the Birthday Ceremony, and a NOAA Fisheries OLE representative presented the Environmental Hero award to BayNet volunteers. MBNMS and GFNMS/CBNMS were among the 25 marine organizations with activity booths at the festival.

Liz Love and Dawn Hayes participated in the GFNMS 20-year anniversary celebration on October 13, 2001.

On October 22nd, the MBNMS hosted Dr. John Broadwater, Manager for the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, for an important evening talk about the recovery efforts for the USS Monitor and the importance of protecting submerged cultural resources in national marine sanctuaries.

On Tuesday November 13 there was a Beach COMBERS evening social/enrichment party at Moss Landing Marine Labs from 6-8 PM. A seabird slide show presentation reviewed winter birds, and the Lab's seabird collection was on display for review.

Media Coverage, September 21th – November 19, 2001.

These represent only those printed, televised or broadcast stories relating to the Sanctuary or ocean issues that have come to our attention. It is likely there are others.

Program On Marine Mammals Tonight (9/21/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Seeking Funds To Clean Toxic Site (9/21/2001) Monterey County Herald. Groundwater Evaluation Delayed Due to Budget Cuts.

Volunteer docents needed for state beaches. 10/24/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff.

Davis Signs Law To Protect Squid Catch (9/25/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Salmon Visit Wharf In Search Of A River (9/26/2001) Monterey County Herald. (photo only)

Anglers Get A Slice Of Heaven (9/26/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Coastal Bill A Test For Davis (9/26/2001) Monterey County Herald.

9/27/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Announcement of ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Sanctuary Scenic Trail.

9/27/01, TV news covered the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Sanctuary Scenic Trail

9/30/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Announcement of Shark Festival & Sanctuary Celebration

9/30/01, KION Fox TV news showed good coverage of the Shark Festival & Sanctuary Celebration, with emphasis on the MBNMS & its ninth anniversary.

Wastewater Spill In Monterey (9/30/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Carbon dioxide: Trouble For Sea Life (10/14/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Destruction Of Rescue Boats Leaves Coast Exposed, Volunteers Bereft (Oct 12/18, 2001) Carmel Pine Cone.

Dive History Program Set For Saturday (10/18/2001) Monterey County Herald. Around The County Section.

Students take plunge into watery world. 10/20/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Liz Kellar. Watsonville HS students building ROVs to compete in the Student Summit/ROV Competition cosponsored by MB Aquarium, MATE, & MBNMS this May.

Snowy Plover May Lose Precious Habitat (10/21/2001) Monterey County Herald. Beach Access at Issue for Off-roaders, Environmentalists.

Divers Show How It Was Done In 1950 (10/21/2001) Monterey County Herald. Front Page Section B.

Teenager wins contest for county beach cleanup. 10/20/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff. National contest recognizes youth volunteerism.

Do seals get a memo about firework shows? 10/26/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Letter to the Editor from Capitola resident.

Gray whale population is holding steady this year. 10/26/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Anchorage Daily News story. Fatality counts are back to normal in 2001 from their highs in 2000 & 1999.

Feds mull plover plan. 10/26/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals. Snowy plover recovery plan has been released by US F&WS.

Oct. 28 Monterey Herald featured an article "Farmers Emphasize Conservation" highlighting the new ag conservation logo for the Monterey Bay region.

The National Radio Project conducted an interview with Holly Price regarding desalination within the Sanctuary and potential environmental impacts. The program will air on KUSP and KZSC locally and is distributed to other stations nationwide.

Californian 10/30/01 First Storm Expected Today. (First Flush) Herald 10/31/01 First Rain of the Season.

KSBW 10/31/01 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM. Coverage of First Flush.

Light doesn't shine yet; Waves temporarily douse work on new lighthouse. 11/1/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals.

Scientists wait for rain to tell them story of the bay. 11/1/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff. Brief on First Flush mentions MBNMS.

Proposed regulations on fishing awash in controversy. SLO Tribune, 11/4/01. SLO County is at the center of controversy for fisheries closures. Describes Marine Life Management Act & Nearshore Fisheries Plan.

Court lowers Exxon Valdez damage award. 11/8/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, NY Times story.

Hot albacore bite continues into Fall. SLO Tribune, 11/8/01. Albacore fishing will close soon due to CDFG closures.

Prime land moves closer to public use; Coast Dairies property draft plan unveiled. 11/9/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals.

Focus is on sea otters. SLO Tribune, 11/10/01. Describes the Fall sea otter census, quotes Brian Hatfield & Phil Adams, a southern Beach COMBER.

Monterey Planners To Look At 4 Big Issues (11/11/2001) Monterey County Herald. Cannery Row Plaza, Theater, Del Monte Subdivision, Parmelee Mansion. Front Page Section B.

Aquarium To Hold Volunteer Orientations (11/11/2001) Monterey County Herald. Around the County Section.

Plan for research center on pier considered. SLO Tribune, 11/12/01. A planned research center on Harford Pier in Port San Luis received \$1 Million in mitigation funding from PG & E. Cal Poly Biology Dept. is the recipient of the grant.

Ocean groups host sanctuary workshop. 11/11/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff.

Announcement of SOS & TOC Santa Cruz forum. First mention of management plan review to appear in the Sentinel.

Cabrillo to host lagoon and beach cleanup. 11/11/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff.

Boat washes ashore. 11/12/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff. 19 foot boat on Santa Cruz Main Beach, removed that day.

KION and KCBA did a lengthy story on First Flush on the 10 and 11 pm news on November 12.

Work To Start On Marina Beachfront Hotel (11/17/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Beach Protection Wise (11/17/2001) Monterey County Herald. Opinion.

Bay-related projects set to net federal cash. 11.15.01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff. On Congress-approved spending bill, mentions \$48.3 million for NMSP, and that MBNMS would use its share "for ecosystem monitoring and possibly a small visitor center."

Roscoe the otter euthanized during surgery. 11/16/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff.

Big Sur bomb range scuttled. 11/16/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, AP. Navy has dropped Hunter Liggett plans.

Saving Our Sea: the MBNMS seeks public input on water's health. 11/17/01, Salinas Californian, staff.

Mending Pelican Wounds (11/19/2001) Monterey County Herald. SPCA Cares for Seabirds That Have Been Hooked.